



[www.sslc.gov](http://www.sslc.gov)  
February 2023

## On The Move

### CITY NEWSLETTER

Cherie Wood, Mayor  
801-464-6757  
[mayor@sslc.gov](mailto:mayor@sslc.gov)

### South Salt Lake City Council Members

LeAnne Huff, District 1  
801-440-8510  
[lhuff@sslc.gov](mailto:lhuff@sslc.gov)

Corey Thomas, District 2  
801-755-8015  
[cthomas@sslc.gov](mailto:cthomas@sslc.gov)

Sharla Bynum, District 3  
801-803-4127  
[sbynum@sslc.gov](mailto:sbynum@sslc.gov)

Portia Mila, District 4  
801-792-0912  
[pmila@sslc.gov](mailto:pmila@sslc.gov)

L. Shane Siwik, District 5  
801-548-7953  
[ssiwik@sslc.gov](mailto:ssiwik@sslc.gov)

Natalie Pinkney, At-Large  
385-775-4980  
[npinkney@sslc.gov](mailto:npinkney@sslc.gov)

Clarissa Williams, At-Large  
505-879-2457  
[cwilliams@sslc.gov](mailto:cwilliams@sslc.gov)

### City Offices

8 am to 5 pm  
801-483-6000  
220 East Morris Ave  
SSL, UT 84115

Animal Service 801-483-6024  
Building Permits 801-483-6005  
Business Licensing 801-483-6063  
Code Enforcement 801-464-6712  
Fire Administration 801-483-6043  
Justice Court 801-483-6072  
Police Admin 801-412-3606  
Promise 801-483-6057  
Public Works 801-483-6045  
Recreation 801-412-3217  
Utility Billing 801-483-6074

Emergencies 911  
Police/Fire Dispatch 801-840-4000

## Gaining Ground for SSL — 2023 Utah State Legislative Review



Mayor Cherie Wood

### How does South Salt Lake influence lawmaking?

As the Mayor, our influence starts early too. We give our support toward specific bills and amendments by working together with our local representatives and by attending legislative meetings. I participate in the Council of Mayors, Utah League of Cities and Towns, and other groups who are looking out for the best interests of



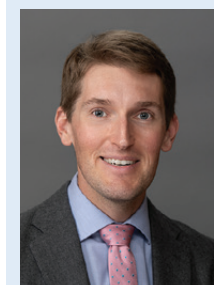
cities and specific issues we face. We also meet with legislators to help them understand the unique issues that we as a city face so they can better represent our best interests. A leading issue statewide is the growing number of homeless and unsheltered individuals, seniors, and families without any options for affordable and stable housing. However, in our state, only Midvale, South Salt Lake, St. George, Ogden, Millcreek, and Salt Lake City are providing shelter facilities and other resources for these men, women, and children. Representing only 15 percent of Utah's population, these six cities have been shouldering a much heavier burden, and that needs to change.

As all of Utah should be deeply committed to being part of the solution, South Salt Lake and the other five municipalities have formed the Compassionate Cities Coalition and will be petitioning our case for much-needed support during the 2023 legislative session. Our objective is to report the additional costs associated with our shelters and seek with lawmakers a better, more equitable way to share this responsibility. We are proud to be contributing to the solution and reflect the compassion our residents feel toward those in the unfortunate situation of homelessness. I thank you for your support and welcome all who want to join in this effort.

You might think your mayor and council just work on local issues but wait, there's more! Many of our issues are statewide, many city ordinances are set by state law, and many budget items include state funding. So we care a lot about what our Governor and Legislature are up to. The 2023 Utah Legislative session runs from January 17—March 3, however, the process of lawmaking starts long before the '1st Tuesday after the 3rd Monday in January'.

### Who Represents You?

In the past year, our district boundaries have shifted, to reflect the population changes that were found during the 2020 Census. With the 2021 election, we welcomed two new faces as well. Who represents South Salt Lake? Meet the three members each representing a portion of South Salt Lake in the Utah Legislature. Find out a little more about them, and I encourage you to connect and share with them what matters to you most. Their committee assignments are also important connections to results on the issues you care about.



**Nate Blouin**  
State Senator District 13  
[nblouin@le.utah.gov](mailto:nblouin@le.utah.gov)

- Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environmental Quality Appropriations Subcommittee
- Senate Business and Labor Appropriations Subcommittee
- Senate Business and Labor Committee
- Senate Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment Committee

### Introduction and Priorities

*I moved to Utah in 2009 and have grown to love many things about the state after initially coming for the incredible access to mountains and public lands. I attended SLCC and the University of Utah before receiving a master's degree out of state. In my professional life, I promote large-scale renewable energy, and while I'm not serving constituents or working, I enjoy backcountry skiing, running, and cycling.*

*My priorities for my first session in the legislature are first and foremost building strong relationships with colleagues and stakeholders to support the legislation I will be seeking to pass. This year, I am working on legislation related to climate and environmental issues, voting rights, affordable housing, and healthcare costs.*

### What do you love most about South Salt Lake?

*I've enjoyed getting to know South Salt Lake over the past few months and had fun attending Mural Fest this past year and the opening of the new Granite Library. I love the access to the S Line and Jordan River Parkway, and I'm also a fan of the breweries and other establishments thriving on West Temple!*

**MAYOR'S MESSAGE CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE**



All City Offices and Community Centers will be closed:

Mon, Feb 20 in observance of Presidents' Day

## Public Meetings

For more info: [www.sslc.gov](http://www.sslc.gov)

### City Council

Wed, Feb 8, 7 p.m.

Wed, Feb 22, 7 p.m.

### Planning Commission

Thu, Feb 2, 7 p.m.

Wed, Feb 16, 7 p.m.

### Civilian Review Board

Mon, Feb 6, 6:30 p.m.



New Survey Launching Soon!



**Quick**  
1 minute a month

**Convenient**  
Works on any device

**Secure**  
Independent of SSL

Sign up to impact local issues

[www.flashvote.com/sslc](http://www.flashvote.com/sslc)

## Welcome New SSL Neighborhoods Secretary



Please join us in welcoming Letisia Lautaimi to our South Salt Lake community. Letisia is the new Neighborhoods Secretary at City Hall. Before this position, she earned her Master's in Industrial and Organizational Psychology and has worked for several years in business and health administration. Originally from New Zealand and part of the Pacific Islander community, she says, "Much of what inspires me is being a mirror for women such as myself, in a diverse community with a desire to improve themselves."

## MAYOR'S MESSAGE CONTINUED



### Sahara Hayes

House Representative District 32  
[shayes@le.utah.gov](mailto:shayes@le.utah.gov)

- House Government Operations Committee
- House Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice Committee

### Introduction and Priorities

I am a lifelong Utahn who has lived in this district for the majority of my life. My background is in nonprofit organizations and local government, and I am excited to bring the empathy and responsiveness that I've learned there to this arena. When I'm not campaigning I love hiking, reading, and exploring the area with my partner and pups.

I spent the summer and fall talking with residents, and I am excited to take their priorities to Capitol Hill. One of the most pressing concerns is tackling the imminent threat to the Great Salt Lake, and I am invested in supporting public education and educators. Since this is my first year representing this area, one of my biggest goals is to continue to get to know residents and their values so I can advocate for them as actively as possible.

### What do you love most about South Salt Lake?

There's a lot, so I'm going to narrow it down to a top three! I adore the Mural Fest - it was one of my first introductions to South Salt Lake, and I love the way it makes art public a part of daily life and provides such a distinct look and feel for the city. I was thrilled when the new library opened, and all of the offerings that it has. I'm a huge bookworm, and having a library right down the street is a dream come true. Finally, I am in awe of the Promise South Salt Lake program, and all that it has accomplished.



### Joel Briscoe

House Rep District 24

[jbriscoe@le.utah.gov](mailto:jbriscoe@le.utah.gov)

- House Economic Development and Workforce Services Committee
- House Revenue and Taxation Committee
- Public Education Appropriations Committee
- (Creates the budget for Public Education)

### Introduction and Priorities

I am a retired high school teacher and taught US History and US Government and Citizenship at Bountiful High School. I served on the Salt Lake City School Board from 1998-2002. I helped found the Legislative Bi-Partisan Clean Air Caucus, and am currently a co-chair of the Clean Air Caucus. I like both dogs and cats.

This year I am running legislation to help preserve the Great Salt Lake. I am sponsoring legislation to create the Utah Clean Energy Fund, to help homeowners and small businesses access funds for solar and other clean energy efficiencies. I also think that Utahns over 21 should be able to order beer from grocery stores online and have it delivered to their homes.

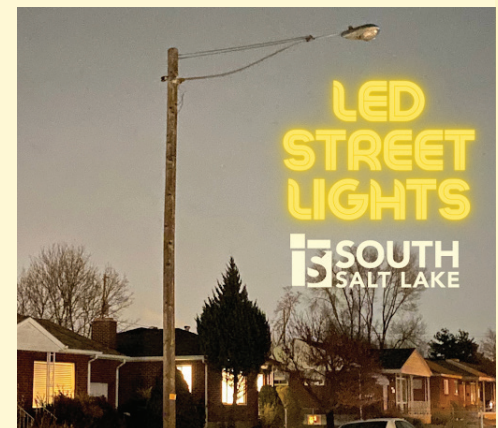
### What do you love most about South Salt Lake?

I have enjoyed walking sections of the Jordan River Parkway with my wife. I also enjoy the Chinatown Supermarket.

## LED Lights Coming to South Salt Lake

Street lighting is a vital piece of our infrastructure, and in January, all existing HPS lights were replaced with energy-efficient LED ones. Not only do LED lights save energy and money, but LEDs have also been designed to focus the light precisely where it is needed: on the streets and sidewalks. Reducing "light pollution" and emitting clearer, white light, the new LED lights will provide better visibility and safety for those navigating around South Salt Lake.

To report a street light outage or maintenance issue, connect with Rocky Mountain Power at [www.rockymountainpower.net](http://www.rockymountainpower.net). To request more street lights in your area, contact your City Council representative or SSL Neighborhood Connect at 801-464-6757, or [connect@ssl.gov](mailto:connect@ssl.gov).



## South Salt Lake City Council Action Report Summary

Full agendas, minutes, handouts, and video recorded meetings available at: [www.sslc.gov/160/City-Council](http://www.sslc.gov/160/City-Council)

1/11/23	Discussion of ACE Disposal Contract	Information on the City's current contract with ACE Disposal, which is up for renewal at the end of this year, and City's Solid Waste Fund discussion.	Moved to a future meeting TBD.	Further discussion needed
1/11/23	Election of Council Chair & Vice Chair	The City Council voted for Chair & Vice Chair for the 2023 year.	Council elected Sharla Bynum to Council Chair and Corey Thomas to Vice Chair for 2023.	No further action needed
RDA MEETING				
1/11/23	Election of RDA Chair & Vice Chair	The RDA voted for Chair & Vice Chair for the 2023 year.	RDA Directors elected Portia Mila to Chair and LeAnne Huff to Vice Chair for 2023.	No further action needed
REGULAR MEETING				
1/11/23	Appointment by the Mayor	Presented to the Council for advice and consent: Suzanne Slifka as an Alternate for the Planning Commission.	Approved.	No further action needed



# Public Safety

## SSLPD 2022 Rock Star K9 Unit Officer Rene Diaz (& PSD Rocco)



Officer Diaz was selected as a K9 handler in July 2021 and has been instrumental in revitalizing the K9 Unit. Prior to becoming a K9 handler, he volunteered to help previous handlers because he wanted to learn everything he could. Officer Diaz entered the K9 unit with limited experience and a police service dog without training. Not only did he have to become certified as a patrol dog/detector dog handler, but he had to train PSD Rocco to the standards required by Utah POST.

Officer Diaz seeks every opportunity to train and deploy PSD Rocco. His goal is for the SSL Police Department K9 Unit to be known as the best street dogs in the State.

He is well on his way to reaching his goal. In addition to department in-service training, Officer Diaz has logged 415 hours of K9 training, much of this on his own time. Additionally, he devotes time to public education with K9 demonstrations and monthly drug sniffs at the Pamela Atkinson Resource Center.

Officer Diaz and PSD Rocco have gotten over \$41,000 in illegal narcotics, drug paraphernalia, and \$700 cash in drug money off the streets. Additionally, Officer Diaz and PSD Rocco have assisted in apprehending 33 individuals involved in violent felonies. All while responding to calls for service and being one of the most proactive officers assigned to the Patrol Division.

Officer Diaz takes great pride in and care of PSD Rocco. PSD Rocco has become a member of the Diaz family and couldn't be in better hands. Officer Diaz, your dedication to the success of our K9 Unit and the public's safety make you a Rock Star!



Message from SSLPD  
Chief Jack Carruth

## SSL Fire Department 2022 Rock Star Firefighter Engineer & Fire Investigator Kody Thompson



Fires come in all different sizes and forms. They involve numerous materials and typically involve complex scenes. Did we mention we dump massive amounts of water on structures and scenes – adding an additional complication? Any time property is destroyed or damaged by fire, it is the job of the fire investigator to determine the circumstances of each scene. Imagine the varied conditions that can exist in identifying, inspecting, evaluating, and analyzing the remnants of a fire. A Fire investigator's skills and knowledge require profound training and practice.

Meet Kody Thompson – who has 13 years with SSL Fire and has taken it upon himself to work with and train our new fire investigators in this extremely critical role. Without a mentor to rely on, new investigators can become severely overwhelmed. Kody makes himself available and reliably follows through to help his trainees. Knowing the value and assistance technology has on the scenes, Kody recently became FAA UAV drone pilot certified. Drones are a powerful tool in investigating a fire scene and identifying burn patterns that would otherwise be difficult to spot.

We are grateful for all Kody does to competently and expertly represent South Salt Lake in fire investigations. Please join me in thanking Kody for all his hard work and for being this year's Fire Department Rock Star!



Message from SSLFD  
Chief Terry Addison



## Community Meetings

Join us for a community conversation.



## Coffee with a Cop

Feb 1, 9-10 a.m.

In-Person

Délice Bakery & Café

2747 S State Street

## Business Watch

Businesses are encouraged to participate.

Feb 2, 5 p.m.

IndieGo Coffee – 3310 S 500 East

## Neighborhood Watch

Residents are encouraged to participate.

Feb 2, 7 p.m.

Find the virtual meeting link at [www.sslc.gov](http://www.sslc.gov)

## Pamela Atkinson Resource Center Community Meeting

Feb 15, 4-5 p.m.

Learn more and provide input about the guests at the Pamela Atkinson Resource Center.

## Text a Tip to SSLPD

You can now send anonymous text and web tips to the SSLPD.

To send an anonymous text tip:

1. Text your tip to 274-637 (CRIMES).
2. Start your text message with the keyword: SSLPD
3. Within a minute, you will receive a text message with your alias. This confirms that your text message was received. The alias identifier is used by the officer to communicate with you, through text, regarding the tip you submitted.
4. Remember, the officer does not know your identity or location.



## Pamela Atkinson Resource Center Community Meetings

*Held every third Wednesday from 4 to 5 pm, this virtual meeting allows members of our community to learn and discuss issues surrounding the Pamela Atkinson Resource Center located in South Salt Lake. Its purpose is to empower the public, by gaining a better understanding of the role of our local law enforcement, encouraging feedback, and to present new initiatives as they roll forward.*



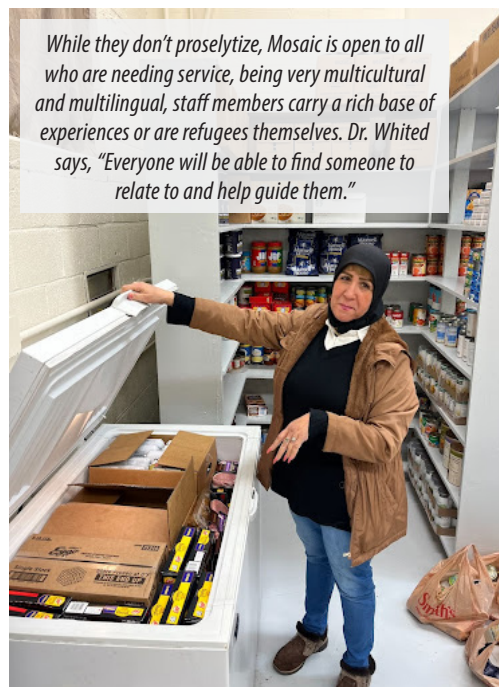
## The Historic Scott School Community Center

3280 S 540 East — [connect@sslc.gov](mailto:connect@sslc.gov)



“Begin where you are and build from there,” is the advice received early on in her career from Mosaic Inter-Faith Ministries Member, Dr. Leslie Whited, while participating in a seminary training program in Mexico. This statement was made after encouraging her to make strong connections multiculturally, as it would expand and enrich her work as a pastor and guide her path going forward. Dr. Whited encourages others to do the same.

As a nonprofit, Mosaic Inter-Faith consists of several offerings, including in-home senior care, basics to employment, refugee and immigrant integration, ESL, art, and enrichment programs. Being very volunteer-driven, during the pandemic Mosaic along with Utah Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters (UVOAD) served the community by distributing over a million and a half pounds of food, and other forms of aid including health and hygiene kits.



While necessary updates and construction to these buildings are ongoing, we'd like to introduce you to a new nonprofit organization now operating inside the cottage, **Mosaic Inter-Faith Ministries**. Serving a broad range of individuals, from refugees to seniors and those experiencing financial hardship, find out a little more about Mosaic. A lot is going on that could benefit you or someone you know.



Mosaic Inter-Faith Ministries is open Monday to Thursday from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Dr. Whited extends the invitation to the public to stop by the cottage (the free-standing building on the southeast corner of the Historic Scott School) to receive a tour, see what they are like, and get a feel for their programming. Once there, you can fill out a volunteer application as they have many ways you can participate or contribute. You can also connect via the Mosaic Inter-Faith Ministries site at [www.Issu.org](http://www.Issu.org).

### WANT TO DONATE?

Here's what Mosaic needs:

- Art Supplies, in particular, beads and beading tools for their art classes.
- Whiteboard markers (because you can never have enough of those!) for their ESL classes.

## Central Park Community Center

2797 S 200 East

Contact: Patrick Holman-Hart, [pholman@sslc.gov](mailto:pholman@sslc.gov) or 801-386-4949

### Police Partnerships Offer Promising Possibilities

Serving K-12 grade youth, at Central Park Community Center we believe that youth thrive when given opportunities to step outside their comfort zones and a safe place to land when they occasionally fall. Whether we're doing art, STEM, recreation, or working on academic skills, youth in our programs are met with encouragement from caring staff and volunteers. We're also home to the Pete Suazo PAL Boxing Gym, where students ages 8-18 can participate in boxing coaching and exercises.

The boxing program not only promotes physical fitness, but also instills confidence, motivation, and self-discipline. It creates a safe environment for our youth to meet and interact with officers who in turn work alongside our staff to keep the youth engaged by incentivizing academic performance with the chance to participate in boxing tournaments locally and nationally.

These intentional activities are designed in collaboration with SSL Police and the SSL Police Athletics and Activities League to build relationships, make referrals, and decrease the risk for youth and families in our community. The partnerships strengthen prevention efforts which in turn decreases intervention and punitive measures that can be costly for individuals and the community. Since engaging youth in Promise programs, juvenile arrests have decreased by 71% between 3:00-6:00 pm. (source: SSLPD)



## Community Opportunity Center: The Co-Op

### Become a Member Today!

You're missing out if you haven't heard of the newest city facility inside the former Columbus Center Library. The Community Opportunity Center (The Co-Op) opened late in 2022 and serves a myriad of purposes to benefit the lives of those in South Salt Lake and our surrounding communities. A nifty way to receive information and updates about what's happening at The Co-Op is to register for a free membership!

Memberships are free and allows you to discover what services and functions at The Co-Op are going on and what you may be interested in. Need wi-fi access? Need to reserve a private room for a study group? Would like to take an art class? Visit [sslcoop.org](http://sslcoop.org) to get on your way and learn all that there is to offer here.

To learn more or find out how you can volunteer, connect with The Co-Op supervisor, Abram Sherrod, at [asherrod@sslc.gov](mailto:asherrod@sslc.gov).



[www.sslcoop.org](http://www.sslcoop.org)  
2530 S 500 East  
Mon-Thur, 9 am to 8 pm  
Fri 9 am - 6 pm







Keeping our Promises of  
education, safety, and opportunity  
across 14 programs throughout the City.



801.483.6057



promise@sslc.gov



@PromiseSSL

## Welcome Our Knowledgeable & WISE Liaison Team

South Salt Lake has a commitment to foster a community that continually invests in itself. To achieve that, Promise SSL recently hired three liaisons as part of a new program with funding support from Salt Lake County called the Workforce Inclusion & Successful Employment Program (WISE). The Co-Op is all about new opportunities, which is why we're so excited to be a WISE partner. The WISE program will support low-income communities to launch higher-paying, better-quality careers by increasing access to workforce development programs, improving completion rates of these programs, and improving placement in better jobs. Our WISE Liaisons are here to help you.



**Co-Op WISE Resource Liaison**  
**Vayana Inxaysy, [vinxaysy@sslc.gov](mailto:vinxaysy@sslc.gov)**

Vayana is here to support community members to thrive by facilitating access to what they may need. When people have their basic needs met, they are able to go out of survival mode and start seeing a future full of opportunities for themselves. In her free time, Vayana enjoys attending public events such as concerts, fairs, farmers' markets, festivals, parades, performances, and art exhibitions.



**Co-Op WISE Childcare Liaison**  
**Kylie McMorris, [kmcmorris@sslc.gov](mailto:kmcmorris@sslc.gov)**

Kylie's role is to make quality, affordable childcare accessible since it can be a barrier for those looking to further their careers. She is also here to help people navigate the process of setting up their own at-home childcare and connect them to the necessary resources needed. In her spare time, Kylie runs a nonprofit in Kenya that provides childcare for young, single mothers and enjoys traveling, skiing, reading, and hanging out with her dog.



**Co-Op WISE Outreach Liaison**  
**Gage Sepulveda, [gsepulveda@sslc.gov](mailto:gsepulveda@sslc.gov)**

Gage's role is to effectively inform our community of the opportunities provided at the Co-Op. By listening to the community he works with partners and stakeholders to implement and advocate for programming that meets their needs. Born and raised in Vernal, Gage developed a love for the outdoors where he keeps an eye out for aliens. When he's not outdoors, he can be found making music with friends.

## Promise Best Buy Teen Tech Center Gives Teens a Competitive Edge



The Promise South Salt Lake Teen Tech Center provides free tech access, training, and mentorship to young people in our community. This one-of-a-kind program, which is the only one in our state, is not just limited to SSL residents but welcomes all teens in the surrounding areas who are interested in exploring and developing a wide variety of skill sets. Here, every young person can achieve their potential and pursue their dreams by jumping in the recording and editing

studio, bringing designs to life using the 3-D printer or Glowforge laser cutter, learning the latest computer design software, and much more. We're committed to improving tech equity and offering a place for teens to gain a competitive edge as they venture out into the workforce by giving them unparalleled access to:

- Cutting-edge technology, resources and training to make, create, and innovate
- Mentors and peers who inspire new passions and possibilities
- College and workforce guidance support that opens doors

Join us now for a hands-on experience. There is no cost to participate and all supplies and equipment are free to use!

Best Buy Teen Tech Center — 2531 S 500 East

Contact Deborah Peel, [dpeel@sslc.gov](mailto:dpeel@sslc.gov) | Open Mon - Fri from 3 pm - 6:30 pm







## Art Classes for March



### Collage & Life Mandala

Instructor: Kandace Steadman  
\$20 SSL Residents. \$60 Non-residents  
Tuesdays, 1:00-3:00 PM

### ART55+ Creative Arts for Seniors

Every Wednesday, 10:00-11:30 AM  
Instructor Laura Sharp Wilson  
Free! No registration required.

### Bad Dog Arts:

#### Women's History Month

Instructor: Maddie Christensen  
\$20 SSL Residents. \$60 Non-residents  
Weds 6:30-8:30 PM



### Utah Film Center: Screenwriting

Thursday, March 16, 6:30-7:30 PM  
Free - Location TBA

### Celebrate South Salt Lake

Apply for a mini grant from SSL Arts Council to host an event celebrating our city's arts, culture, and diversity.

APPLY TODAY!

DUE MAR 10 >>SSLArts.org



We are improving  
our offerings with  
**CIVICREC**



**Sports Programs**



**Art Classes**



**Facility Rental**



**Dumpster Rental**

**GET STARTED**



[www.sslc.gov](http://www.sslc.gov)



See all the animals currently at  
South Salt Lake Animal Services at  
[tinyurl.com/36dtajxm](http://tinyurl.com/36dtajxm)

## SL County Senior Center — EVENTS FOR JANUARY 2023

### LIVE ENTERTAINMENT AT 10:30 AM

Wednesday, Feb 1  
Friday, Feb 10  
Friday, Feb 17  
Friday, Feb 24

### HOLIDAY MEALS

**Birthday Special** – Tuesday, February 7  
(every first Tuesday of the month)  
**Valentine's Day Special** – Tuesday, Feb 14  
**Presidents' Day Special** – Friday, Feb 17  
**Mardi Gras Special** – Friday, Feb 24

### BLOOD PRESSURE CHECKS WITH FIRE DEPARTMENT

Wednesday, Feb 8 at 9:15 am

### PRESENTATIONS

**Reice Stein**  
Friday, Feb 3 at 10:30 am  
**Vital Aging Wellness Discussions with a licensed therapist**  
Wednesday, Feb 15 at 10:30 am  
**Granite Library Guest**  
Wednesday, Feb 22 at 10:30 am  
**Art Classes with Laura Sharp Wilson in the Co-Op**  
Every Wednesday  
10:00 am – 11:30 am



**Columbus Center — 2531 S 400 East**



## Welcoming New Director of Community and Economic Development

This year South Salt Lake introduced a new Community and Economic Development Director, Jonathan Weidenhamer. Jonathan comes to us from Park City Municipal Corp with over 23 years of extensive experience in planning, community and economic development. He went from ski bum/bar owner to a municipal planning intern and worked his way up to Senior Planner. He then managed Special Projects and rounded out his time in Park City as the Economic Development Director.

Jonathan emphasized that he wishes to prioritize service to residents and businesses in his work. He looks forward to landing amenities that best serve the community and to shaping the future of the City with developers and staff. He sees SSL as a hidden gem between the highways and mountains – people pass by or through the City and don't even see it. Jonathan views South Salt Lake as having a strong foundation with ample opportunities for existing and future SSL residents.



## Thank you, Laura Vernon



Sometimes we don't see the value of something until it's gone, or nearly gone. Facing severe drought for over a decade, the dramatic drop in water levels of the Great Salt Lake and its negative impact on the environment greatly exceeds those of a dried-up lake bed. While the NY Times and other news sources have increased our awareness, the many issues surrounding the disappearance of the Great Salt Lake are not new to Laura Vernon. The Great Salt Lake is in peril, and our air, wildlife, and millions of migratory birds are too. And, as the Great Salt Lake Coordinator for the Department of Natural Resources Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands, Laura Vernon knows that now is the time to take action.

As a resident of South Salt Lake for over 12 years, Laura has witnessed many changes and growth opportunities and wanted to get involved with our city in a meaningful way. Since 2016, Laura has been part of the South Salt Lake Planning Commission and stepped up as its Chair in 2018. In 2020, Laura contributed her ideas to the city's future vision statement as a member of the General Plan 2040 Steering Committee. As her job with the DNR has intensified, Laura recently gave the City notice that she will no longer be able to serve on the Planning Commission. We wish to thank Laura, for her years of dedicated service and for finding solutions for our community.

## Get to Know SSL's Planning Commission

Who's to ensure that new development is done responsibly? The South Salt Lake Planning Commission is a local government committee that takes an advisory role and makes recommendations to the City Council regarding any changes regarding the General Plan, small area plans, and zoning ordinances. As "local experts", Planning Commission members review proposed developments, as well as land uses, offering advice that can then impact the city's short and long-term physical development as well as its social and economic quality of life. Being a committee comprised of residents is key, as they may take into consideration things, that outsiders or developers may not.